

September
8

Jonah
1:1-17

Re-Belly'on

¹ Now the word of the
LORD came unto
Jonah the son of
Amittai, saying,

² Arise, go to Nineveh,
that great city, and cry
against it; for their
wickedness is come up
before me.

³ But Jonah rose up to
flee unto Tarshish from
the presence of the
LORD, and went down
to Joppa; and he found

a ship going to
Tarshish: so he paid
the fare thereof, and
went down into it, to
go with them unto
Tarshish **from the
presence of the LORD.**

⁴ But the LORD sent
out a great wind into
the sea, and there was
a mighty tempest in
the sea, so that the
ship was like to be
broken.

⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

⁶ So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What

meanest thou, **O sleeper**? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

⁷ And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

⁸ Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?

⁹ And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven,

**which hath made the
sea and the dry land.**

**¹⁰ Then were the men
exceedingly afraid, and
said unto him, Why
hast thou done this?
For the men knew that
he fled from the
presence of the LORD,
because he had told
them.**

**¹¹ Then said they unto
him, What shall we do
unto thee, that the sea**

may be calm unto us?
for the sea wrought,
and was tempestuous.

¹² And he said unto
them, Take me up, and
cast me forth into the
sea; so shall the sea
be calm unto you: for I
know that for my sake
this great tempest is
upon you.

¹³ Nevertheless the
men rowed hard to
bring it to the land; but

**they could not: for the
sea wrought, and was
tempestuous against
them.**

**14 Wherefore they cried
unto the LORD, and
said, We beseech thee,
O LORD, we beseech
thee, let us not perish
for this man's life, and
lay not upon us
innocent blood: for
thou, O LORD, hast
done as it pleased**

thee.

**¹⁵ So they took up
Jonah, and cast him
forth into the sea: and
the sea ceased from
her raging.**

**¹⁶ Then the men feared
the LORD exceedingly,
and offered a sacrifice
unto the LORD, and
made vows.**

**¹⁷ Now the LORD had
prepared a great fish
to swallow up Jonah.**

**And Jonah was in the
belly of the fish three
days and three nights.**

Rebellion against
God brings one
into the belly of
disaster and even
jeopardizes the
safety of others.
That is the quick
overview of the
biblical account
of Jonah, but
let's dive
into deeper
waters.

“The word of the LORD” came to Jonah.

This particular word of the LORD was for Jonah to do 3 things:

- (1) get up
- (2) go to the large city of Nineveh
- (3) speak strongly against Nineveh.

A reason was given:
That city’s wickedness

had “come up
before” God.

Diving Deeper
Verses 1-2

When a problem
comes up before God,
does that mean God
is somehow made
aware of an issue
that he did not know
about previously?

How is wickedness

brought to God's attention? Prayer and fasting? Keeping the Law? Angels? A spiritual *odor* as from sacrifices by humans to the LORD (a sweet savor)? Is it similar to the blood of Able which called God *from the ground* (Genesis 4:10)?

Verse 3
Apparently Jonah

heard and understood the LORD because he complied to one of the three requests. He arose. Yes, he got up and went, but he did not go where God told him to go nor did he do what God told him to do. Instead of heading toward Nineveh, he tried to go to a town called Tarshish. Not only once, but

twice, our account says, Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish “from the presence of the LORD”. This being recorded twice indicates the point is an important one.

How is it that a **prophet** of the LORD thought it possible to be away from God’s presence? It may be

that Jonah thought
because Tarshish was
far from where God
wanted him to go,
and in the opposite
direction of Nineveh,
he could hide “from the
presence of the LORD”.

It might be said that
Jonah was
attempting to run
from God as some do
even today when

charged with a unique mission. As ridiculous as it may seem, many have tried to evade the calling or instruction of God. That “Tarshish” for some is the recklessness and destructiveness of lifestyle such as use of harmful substances, or sports or other

gaming or gambling
addictions. Sometimes
that escape to Tarshish
is in either the making
of money or the giving
of money or service or
even in ritualistic
church attendance
but without any
relationship with
God. It's the,
“I don't want to do
what I'm told,
but I'll do something

else” way of running.

Verses 4-16

Jonah paid for a boat trip in Joppa to go to Tarshish, but the LORD had other plans for him. God sent a severe wind storm causing the ship workers to be very afraid. They decided what was happening was the result of

someone angering a god. They tried logical and even “spiritual” approaches to the problem. They eliminated excess weight as well as called on their gods.

At some point, they realized Jonah wasn't with them or doing the same things so they went to get him.

He was asleep. They
awoke him calling him
“Sleeper” and telling
him to call on his God
so they might be
spared of the storm’s
effects. They decided
to “cast lots” to
determine fault.
The lot fell on Jonah.
That meant he was
the culprit.

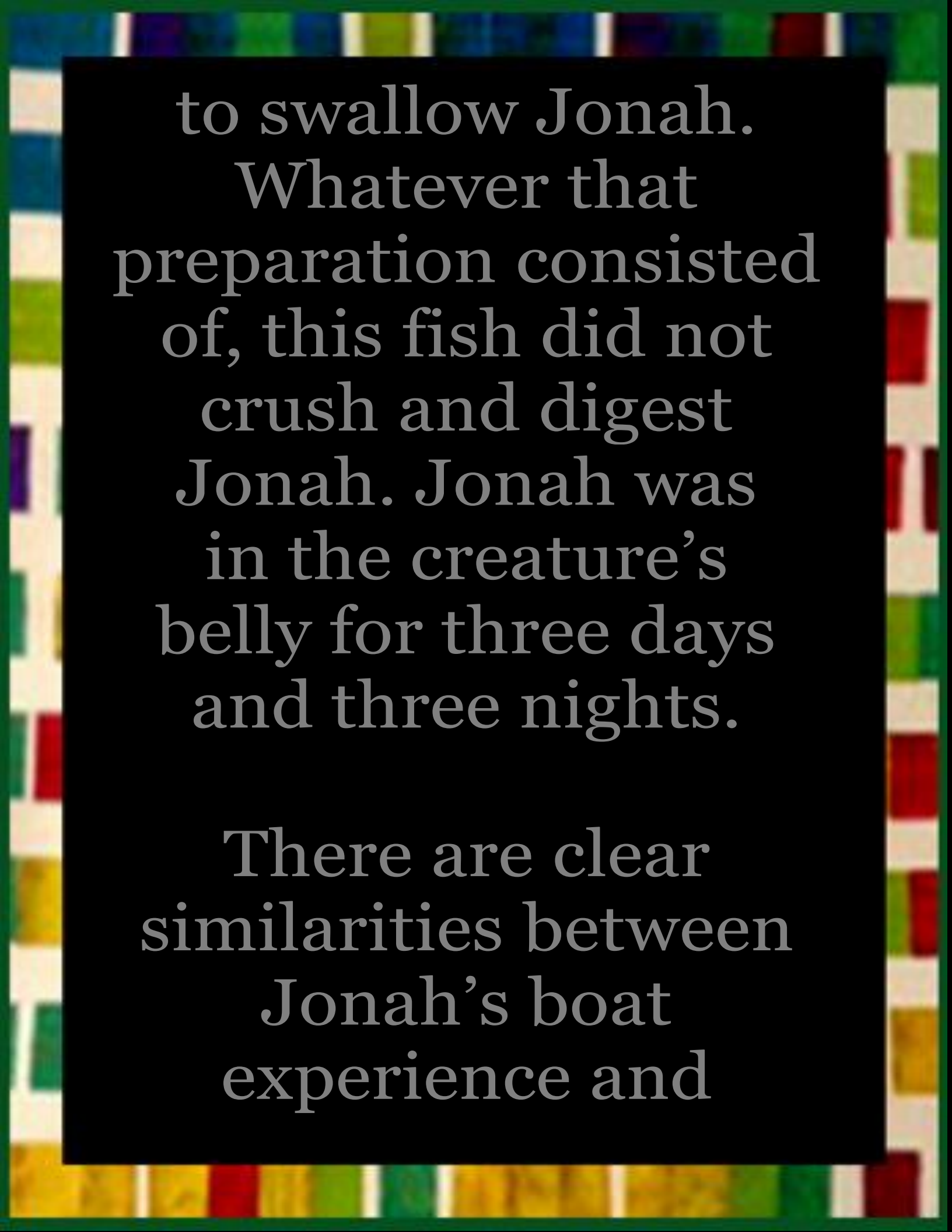
They grilled Jonah

about his personal life and he answered all their questions. They asked him what it would take to appease his God. Jonah told them to toss him overboard. They tried to avoid doing that by rowing harder but that didn't help. Finally, they prayed that the LORD would not hold what they were about

to do against them.
Then they threw Jonah
off the boat into the
waters. The storm
stopped. The boat
workers revered the
LORD greatly and later
offered sacrifices to
him and made
personal vows.

Verse 17 and Notes

The LORD had
“prepared” a great fish



to swallow Jonah.

Whatever that preparation consisted of, this fish did not crush and digest Jonah. Jonah was in the creature's belly for three days and three nights.

There are clear similarities between Jonah's boat experience and

one of Jesus when
he slept in a boat
during a storm
that only one
person could
cause to stop.

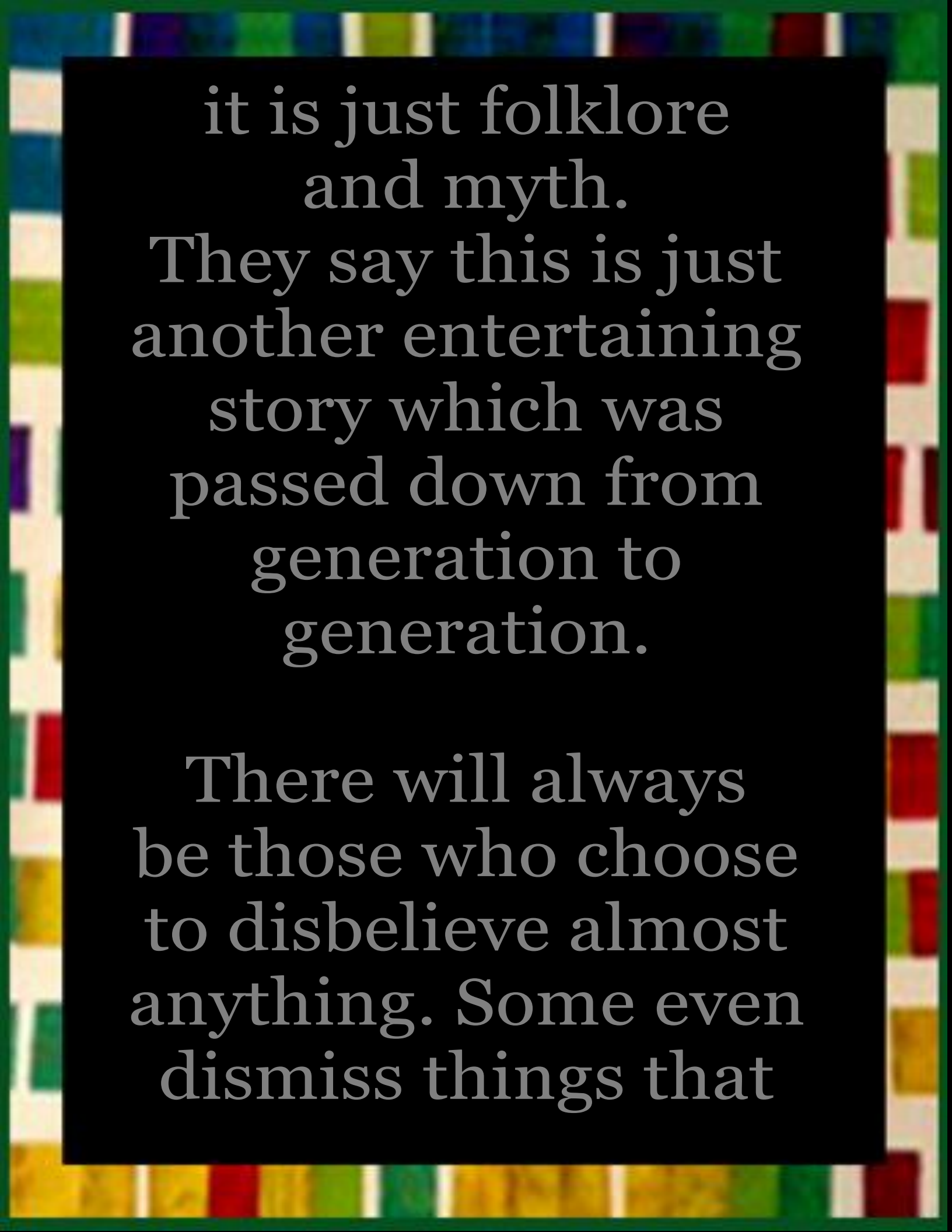
Also, Jonah was
out of sight for 3
days and 3 nights
while he was
in the belly of
the big fish.

Jesus was out
of sight for 3 days
and 3 nights while
he was in the inner
parts of the earth.



That's just the first chapter of the account of the prophet Jonah. It shows Jonah's very human ways and God's very superior and non-human ways.

Of course, there are some who contend that none of this really happened and



it is just folklore
and myth.

They say this is just
another entertaining
story which was
passed down from
generation to
generation.

There will always
be those who choose
to disbelieve almost
anything. Some even
dismiss things that

happen within their own lives when they cannot explain them.

As this very account exemplifies, we all have the right of choice—with consequences, of course.

Any one of us could find ourselves in the **belly** of danger due to **rebellion**—

Re-BELLY on'.

ONE  DAY

SCRIPTURE

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